

Message Page
Sts Peter and Paul Church
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NOTE: Please print 175 weekly.

DECEMBER 07, 2014
WEEKLY BULLETIN
PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY
VOL. 125 #49

STS. PETER & PAUL PARISH
1919 South 7th Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63104
314-231-9923

The second is called the "Candle of Preparation," reminding Christians to "get ready" to receive God.



2ND SUNDAY OF *Advent*

**Our Mission: *Opening Hearts to Christ through
Prayer, Fellowship & Service***

STS. PETER AND PAUL PARISH
A Catholic Parish in the Historic Souldard
Neighborhood Serving the Poor

Parish Office 314-231-9923
Shelter Office 314-621-5520
The Young Catholic Musicians 314-962-9260
Peter & Paul Community Services 314-588-7111
St. Frances Cabrini Academy 314-776-0883
Hall & YCM 314-773-8486
Franklin Room 314-664-7706

MASSES

Saturday: 5:00 pm
Sunday: 9:30 am
Holydays: 12:05 pm
Holidays: 9:00 am
Weekdays: 8:30 am in rectory – M, T, Thurs.
 5:30 pm Mon. when Council Meets
 12:05 pm in church — Wed.

Reconciliation: the Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered 15 minutes before the weekend Masses and by appointment.

STAFF

Father Bruce Forman, Pastor
 Deacon Thomas Gorski
 Deacon Dennis Chitwood
 Phyllis Sandusky, Administration Officer
 pssspeterpaul@charter.net
 Roger Kleffner, Maintenance
 James Young, Maintenance
 Mary Smith, The Young Catholic Musicians

PARISH COUNCIL

Pastor - Fr. Bruce Forman 314-231-9923
 revycm@charter.net
Pastoral Associate
 - Sr. Rose Marie Groppe, CSJ 314-231-9923
President of Parish Council- Tim Hobart 314-231-9923
 timh@hhhealthassociates.com
Secretary - Phil Willman 314-231-9923
 pwill2@aol.com
Finance Committee - Gary Meyer 314-231-9923
Worship - Kathy Doerr
 314-231-9923
Education & Community Formation 314-231-9923
Communications - Kathie Fuchs 314-231-9923
 fuchsk@att.net
Parish Life - Michelle Heitmann 314-231-9923
 mmheitmann@sbcglobal.net
Social Services & Social Justice
 - Jan Meyer 314-231-9923

Choir Director - Kathy Doerr 314-231-9923
Church Decorating & Design - Joe Thele 314-231-9923
Dance - Suzanne Tushar 314-231-9923
Lectors – Cary Stock 314-231-9923
Eucharistic Ministers – 314-231-9923
Servers – Cathy Weisbrod 314-231-9923
Ushers/Greeters - Andy Alaska 314-231-9923

INFANT BAPTISMS: Contact Deacon Dennis Chitwood (6) six months before anticipated birth for Baptismal Preparation. 314-231-9923

PREPARATION FOR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND RECONCILIATION: Contact Deacon Dennis Chitwood. 314-231-9923

PREPARATION FOR CONFIRMATION: Contact Kevin Kelly. 314-231-9923

THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (RCIA): Contact Kevin Kelly with any interest in pursuing membership in the Catholic Church, in learning more about the Church, or returning to the Church. 314- 231-9923

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY: Archdiocesan guidelines require engaged couples to prepare for their marriage at least **six (6) months** before the scheduled wedding takes place. Engaged couples planning marriage, contact Deacon Thomas Gorski. 314-231-9923

WEDDING MUSIC CONSULTANT: Contact Mary Smith for all wedding Masses at Sts. Peter & Paul Church. Mary will advise couples in choosing music and musicians. All musicians, cantors, and vocalists for Mass must be approved by our Music Consultant. 314-962-9260

HOLY ORDERS AND CONSECRATED (RELIGIOUS) LIFE: If interested, please call parish rectory or the Archdiocesan Office of Vocations.

GROUP TOURS of Historic Sts. Peter and Paul Church can be scheduled by contacting Phyllis Sandusky at the Rectory office. 314-231-9923

MEALS FOR THE NEEDY are served in the Parish Hall from the 2nd to the 21st of each month. To help serve the poor and homeless, call Jane Lindley of PPCS. 314-588-7111

PARISH MID LEVEL HALL RENTAL: Available for receptions, banquets, parties, rehearsal dinners. Contact Doug Swaney of Catered Memories. 314-231-9923

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION: Exists to support parents with children in public school or home schooled in their efforts to evangelize and pass the Catholic Faith on to their children. Please contact Fr. Leo J. Spezio, Director. Email: scdpsr4200@sbcglobal.net 314.773-3070
Website Below:
<http://sites.google.com/site/southcitydeanerypsr/home>

STS. PETER & PAUL YOUNG ADULTS GROUP (Ages: 20's & 30's) meet once a month on the 2nd Saturday of each month for Mass and a potluck in the rectory. If you are in your 20's or 30's, we invite you to come. Please contact Ryan Sitki at rsitki@gmail.com

ENCOUNTER GOD IN THE SACRED SCRIPTURE

If you promise to spend five (5) minutes a day reading the bible, take a bible free. Bibles can be found in the vestibule of church at the bible display.

Welcome Christopher Rubie, a 1st Year Student at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary and to all of our parishioners, neighbors and visitors. If this is your first time visiting our parish and you like what you see and hear and it fills your need, please consider making this your home parish. Our Mission is **“Opening Hearts to Christ through Prayer, Service and Fellowship.** We invite you to join our parish as a **full-time member or you may make this your associate parish by attending at least once a month and supporting our parish through your contribution envelopes.** To do so, please ask one of the ushers for a Membership Profile Questionnaire to complete and return to the rectory office or place it in the collection basket or on the piano after Mass. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the parish office at 314-231-9923. We are grateful for all of our members and visitors.



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday Dec 06 Parishioners
 Thursday Dec 11 John Doucette

PREACHING SCHEDULE

Dec 06 & 07 Deacon Tom Gorski
 Dec 13 & 14 Fr. Bruce Forman
 Dec 20 & 21 Deacon Tom Gorski

Monday, December 8th is the Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary and is a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass will be celebrated at 12:05 p.m in church

READINGS FOR THE WEEK DECEMBER 8 – 14, 2014

Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
 Tuesday: Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13; Mt 18:12-14
 Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30
 Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9, 10-13ab; Mt 11:11-15
 Friday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712
 Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
 Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

LIVING GOD'S WORD

Unlike those who were baptized by John, we were baptized “with the Holy Spirit” (Mark 1:8). If that is so, then “what sort of persons ought” we to be? Like Isaiah, John, and Peter, we ought to be both heralding and “hastening the coming of the day of God” (2 Peter 3:12).
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LITURGICAL ASSISTANTS

All schedules for Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors and Servers, Ushers & Greeters will be posted at the information center going forward.

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

We have again partnered with Joint Neighborhood Ministry to collect gifts for needy families this year. Please choose a tag from the table, return your gift UNWRAPPED, and place the ornament on the tree when the gift is returned. We will then watch the tree decorations grow over the next few weeks. Gift cards and utility checks should be placed in the decorated box near the piano and will be removed after Mass each week. **All gifts, gift cards and utility checks need to be returned by Sunday, December 14th.** As always, thank you for your joyful giving to others!! Please contact Jan Meyer or Gerry Berviller through the parish office with any questions, comments or concerns.



WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS

Sts. Peter & Paul welcomes Allison Knaup as a full-time parishioner and a member of our young adult group, Ian & Dianna Dietrich, full-time parishioners and members of the young adult group and Mary & Brian Gebhart as associate parishioners and Al & Andrea Parker as associate parishioners. Please introduce yourselves to others so we can get to know each other.

PARISH FAMILY NEWS

Happy Birthday!

Dec 06 Jill Harter
Dec 06 Kathleen Wayman
Dec 07 Emily Douglas
Dec 08 Cesar Millan
Dec 12 Katie Strutz
Dec 13 Al Niehoff
Dec 14 Sue Hackmann
Dec 14 Kathy McKinnon
Dec 15 Mary Hejkal
Dec 15 Kimberly Zouglas



Happy Anniversary!

Dec 15 Al & Cheryl Niehoff

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

Chuck Hejkal, Donna Sikorski, Diane Koishor, Sister Marianne Keena, CSJ, Steve Ippolito, Elizabeth Chitwood, Dawn Fuller, Al Niehoff, Andy Alaska, Fluffy Juergens.

Please pray for strength, courage, patience and healing for **all** those mentioned above and also for all the people in the world who need physical and emotional healing.

Note from parish office: Please let me know when to take your name off of the list above.

INTERCESSIONS FOR LIFE

For all people:
That we may express compassion, gentleness and patience towards others
this Advent season and always;
We pray to the Lord:

STEWARDSHIP

"Prepare the way of the Lord..." - MARK 1:3

We are all called to live a holy life. We are all called to invite others to live holy lives. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, does just that – it puts us on the path to holiness and it invites others to be holy, too.

That we take time to invite others to share and participate in our Faith.

PURE HEARTS

Those whose hearts are pure are the temples of the Holy Spirit.

—St. Lucy



RITE OF ACCEPTANCE

Today, December 7, we celebrate the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens with our catechumen, Dave Calvin.

What exactly is happening with Dave? In a post on the TeamRCIA webpage, Nick Wagner wrote:

"After unbaptized inquirers celebrate the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens, they are changed. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults says they are consecrated. There are many things we can say about the purpose the catechumens now have; at the most basic level, we can start with their title, catechumen. The word catechumen is Greek. It means one who hears or one whose ears ring. In the ancient Middle East, people thought the ear canal was connected to the heart. So if someone heard something truly meaningful, not only would his ears ring, his heart would begin to beat more strongly.

Thus, the disciples on the road to Emmaus, after finally hearing Christ's words, would say to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" (Lk 24:32).

The purpose of the catechumens, then, is to hear Christ speaking to them in a way that makes their hearts burn. There are many things we can say about the purpose the catechumens now have; at the most basic level, we can start with their title, catechumen. The word catechumen is Greek. It means one who hears or one whose ears ring. In the ancient Middle East, people thought the ear canal was connected to the heart. So if someone heard something truly meaningful, not only would his ears ring, his heart would begin to beat more strongly.

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Please keep Dave in your prayers as he makes this faith journey to grow in knowledge and love for our Lord Jesus Christ and oneness with His Catholic Church. And my all our hearts burn within us as we prepare for the coming of the Lord!

UPCOMING WEDDINGS

Thomas Mann & Julie Wise

12/12/2014

GOD'S WORD TODAY

Advent is such a wonderful liturgical season. We are treated to a feast of scripture readings that can serve to inspire us as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of the Lord. In today's first reading, Isaiah announces that God's glory will be revealed and that we are to have no fear as we anticipate the tremendous burst of glory that the Lord's coming will ignite. Saint Peter, in today's second reading, reminds us to conduct ourselves in holiness and devotion as we ready ourselves to welcome the Lord at the end of time. The central figure for this second Advent Sunday is John the Baptist, who points not to himself but to the one who is to come, who will baptize with the Holy Spirit. As God's word of preparation is proclaimed today, let us ready ourselves to receive the Lord in each and every moment of our lives. Let us learn to expect miracles among God's holy people.

From *Saint Margaret Sunday Missal*, copyright © J. S. Paluch Company

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Have you seen *Antiques Roadshow* on television? People bring attic treasures to experts for appraisal and possible cash. Catholic attics, or maybe Grandma's wall, often hold a "sick call crucifix." It is a curiously bulky crucifix hiding a sliding panel and a secret compartment. Two tiny candles, a squeeze bottle of holy water, a stringy purple mini-stole, a tube of prayers, and some cotton balls are all hidden inside. The cross folds up to form a mini-altar that can be propped up by a sick person's bed. All that is needed is a priest with the oil of the sick and Holy Communion. Forty years ago, when these crosses enjoyed great popularity, the sacrament of the sick was often an encounter between priest and sick person alone, and often only in a last crisis of illness.

Gradually, we are reclaiming the sacrament of anointing from this minimal, hidden expression. It is celebrated more richly and more often, even in the Sunday assembly, at every stage of illness and across a wide range of human suffering. The "sick call crucifix" is not a tradition, it is a curiosity from another time, but it reminds us of true tradition: we are a people who care for our sick, who accompany them in faith, and who sustain them with an experience of Christ's presence.

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

SHELTER NEEDS

We will not be collecting anything for the shelter during the month of December. We concentrate our efforts to the Giving Tree. We will resume Collections for the shelter clients in January. Thank you for your generosity throughout the year to assist those in our community. May you be blessed for your thoughtfulness & kindness.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Necessity is the plea for every infringement on human rights. It is the argument of tyrants.

—William Pitt the Younger

EXILE

Both Isaiah and Peter had the task of comforting and encouraging their communities during times of exile. The Israelites were in geographic exile from Israel; to them this was, in effect, the same as being in exile from their God. The early Christians, following the Resurrection, expected an immediate return of Christ in glory; they, too, felt in "exile" as the delay of the Second Coming grew longer and longer. All four of scripture's authors today—Isaiah, the psalmist, Peter, and Mark—hasten to help us see things in God's terms, not ours. They want us to know that we can never truly be exiled from God, or from God-among-us, since we know that when the faithful are gathered, Christ has come into their midst. Instead, we are encouraged today to do what we can from our end to shorten the time of our exile: to repent of our sins, to return our lives to the Lord, to live as people who seek the coming day of the Lord, when "kindness and truth shall meet; justice and peace shall kiss" (Psalm 85:10).

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REFLECTING ON GOD'S WORD

How many towns do you suppose have a newspaper called *The Herald*? It's a good name for a newspaper because it refers to one who proclaims significant news. It also can refer to a person who comes before to announce what will follow, a forerunner like John. The angels who heralded the good news of Jesus' birth fit into a long line of heralds who proclaimed that God's promises would at last be fulfilled.

This week everyone seems to be announcing good news. Isaiah and the psalmist herald and describe others heralding glad tidings. Mark proclaims "the gospel [or 'good news'] of Jesus Christ" (Mark 1:1). He also depicts John as a herald in the tradition of Isaiah. And Peter speaks eloquently of God's promise and patience. Can we bring ourselves to hearken to their words and believe them? Do we have any good news of our own to proclaim?

—Virginia Stillwell

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RETREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR MUSICIANS JANUARY 9 – 11, 2015

"Make Music From your Heart" is the theme for a 48 hour retreat experience for lovers of music. The retreat will be held at the Marianist Retreat Center in Eureka, MO. We welcome people of all faiths to experience spiritual growth through songwriting, recording and performing. The retreat includes private room lodging with bath (linens provided) and six meals for a cost of \$200 per person. Each participant will get a CD of all the original music created. Call the Retreat Center at 636 938-5390 for information and registration.

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

December 8 is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception - an angel, Mary, a life changing message. It's almost too surreal to believe. What's our take away? Ponder the angel's greeting to Mary, "Do not be afraid." What do my beloved and I worry about? Remember: "Nothing is impossible for God."

PARENTING POINTERS

December 12 is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe - Patroness of the Americas. **Tell your children the story of Juan Diego (see below).** One thing that is important about Mary's appearance is that she took on the look of this Mexican peasant. How do I think Mary would look if she appeared to me today?

Susan Vogt www.SusanVogt.net

JUAN DIEGO

Feast Day: December 09

Born: 1474 - Died: 1548

Juan Diego was born in Mexico and lived a simple life as a weaver, farmer and laborer. Juan was a member of the Chichimeca people (an Indian tribe). They called him the talking eagle. His Christian name was Juan Diego.

On December 9, 1531, Juan rose before dawn to walk fifteen miles to Mexico City to attend daily Mass. As he passed Tepeyac Hill, he heard music and saw a glowing cloud encircled by a rainbow. A woman's voice called him to the top of the hill.

There he saw a beautiful young woman dressed like an Aztec princess. She said she was the Virgin Mary and Mother of the true God. She asked Juan to tell the bishop to build a church on that site, so she could be present to help and defend those were suffering and in pain.

After Juan's mission was completed, he became a hermit. He spent the rest of his life in prayer and penance.

His little hut was near the first chapel that was built on Tepeyac Hill. He was greatly respected and parents wished their children would grow up to be holy like Juan Diego.

Juan took care of the little church and met the pilgrims who began to come there to honor their Mother of Guadalupe. He would show them the miraculous tilma or cloak that preserves Mary's beautiful image.

The pope personally visited the magnificent church of Our Lady of Guadalupe and prayed there for all of the people of Mexico.

He prayed especially for those who were killed during the terrible persecution of the Church in the early part of this century. And he prayed for all the pilgrims who come to this beautiful church with such faith in the Mother of God.

TAKEN FROM STEWARDSHIP ALIVE

By David Baranowski

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS

- "It's impossible to be truly thankful for what we have while being consumed with anger for what we don't have. Jealousy of others' gifts can't be sustained when we're focused, gratefully, on all the gifts God has given to us." **Dan Conway**
- "Humbling ourselves before the Lord places us in a position to be freed from double-mindedness, a worldly and competitive spirit and a judgmental attitude towards others." **James Earl Massey**
- "He (Jesus) must become greater; I must become less." **John 3:30**
- "God's plan does not ignore the future but it understands that we cannot control it, let alone guarantee it. We are transient beings with a fleeting life that is vulnerable to so many forces beyond our control. This idea runs against the grain of how we have been trained to think about life. Our value, our self-worth, our future lies not in realizing our plans, but God's." **Scripture Union USA**
- "Everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger. Prove yourself doers of the word and not merely hearers who delude themselves." **James 1:19-22**

ST. AGNES OF ASSISI -LIVED (1197-1253) FEAST DAY: NOVEMBER 19, 2014

Agnes was the sister of St. Clare and her first follower. When Agnes left home two weeks after Clare's departure, their family attempted to bring Agnes back by force. They tried to drag her out of the monastery, but all of a sudden her body became so heavy that several knights could not budge it. Her uncle Monaldo tried to strike her but was temporarily paralyzed. The knights then left Agnes and Clare in peace.

Agnes matched her sister in devotion to prayer and in willingness to endure the strict penances which characterized their lives at San Damiano. In 1221 a group of Benedictine nuns in Monticelli (near Florence) asked to become Poor Clares. St. Clare sent Agnes to become abbess of that monastery. Agnes soon wrote a rather sad letter about how much she missed Clare and the other nuns at San Damiano. After establishing other Poor Clare monasteries in northern Italy, Agnes was recalled to San Damiano in 1253 when Clare was dying.

Agnes followed Clare in death three months later, and was canonized in 1753.

Taken from Saint of the Day



**BUS TRIP – 42ND ANNUAL NATIONAL
MARCH FOR LIFE**

MISSOURI LIFE CARAVAN is once again organizing buses for the 42nd Annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, Jan. 21, 22 and 23, 2015. Join us and thousands of others from across the U.S. for this huge pro-life gathering in the nation's capital. This trip does not involve overnight stays in hotels, we sleep on the buses. For registration and bus information contact: Phone: 314-434-4900, E-mail mrl.eastern@yahoo.com. You can also download our registration form at www.missourilife.org. Registration deadline is Jan. 5, 2015.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR YEAR 2015

We are now taking Mass Intention requests for 2015. Masses are \$5.00 each. Please call the office to reserve your special dates. Make checks payable to Sts. Peter and Paul and note in the memo "For Mass Intentions".

DONATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS FLOWERS can be made through the envelope in your packet. Don't forget to write on the back of the envelope who you want remembered or honored. Once the Christmas season is over (after the Feast of the Epiphany) you are welcome to take a flower home.



**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS
HONORING THE LIVING
AND REMEMBERING
THE DECEASED**



Jackie Kaiser
The Wilder Family
Bob Blastenbrei
George Sandusky
The Hobart Family

**ST. MARTIN OF TOURS
TRIVIA NIGHT
JANUARY 17, 2015**

Where: St. Martin of Tours Parish Hall
610 W. Ripa Ave. 63125

When: Saturday, January 17, 2015
Doors open at 6 p.m. with Trivia starting
at 7 p.m.

Price: \$20 per person with teams of 8 - 10

The night includes general trivia, 50/50 raffle, attendance prizes, silent auction, beer, soda, and small snacks. Proceeds from the Trivia Night will be used to support the Athletic Association of St. Martin of Tours. **To reserve a table please email Steve Eirvin at Steveervin18@gmail.com or call Rick Johner at 314-223-0232.**

TODAY, we welcome Christopher Rubie a 1st Year Theology Student Semarian at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary. He is here this weekend to speak with us about the Seminary and the upcoming special collection for the Seminary on Christmas Day.

A NOTE FROM CHRISTOPHER RUBIE

Hello Sts. Peter and Paul parishioners! My name is Christopher Rubie, and I am a first year Theology student at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary. Currently I am entering my second year as a seminarian studying for the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Also, my home parish is the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis. May I take this opportunity to tell you briefly about who I am, as many of you will read this in the Sunday bulletin.

I was born and raised in St. Louis, growing up predominately in Imperial and Oakville, Missouri. I was baptized at St. Martin of Tours in Lemay in January 1981. In my immediate family, I have three brothers: my oldest brother Derek is five years my senior, and my two younger brothers, Jamie and Andrew, are a year and two years younger respectively. I went to grade school at Seckman Elementary and Seckman Junior High School for 7th and 8th grade. From 1996-2000, I attended high school at Lutheran High School South. Even though I attended a Lutheran high school, I still considered myself very Catholic due, no doubt, to the Catholic-Christian witness of my paternal grandparents.

After graduating from Lutheran South, I worked for a couple years in retail before starting college. In 2002, I began taking classes at St. Louis Community College at Meramec. I soon discovered that I really enjoyed studying philosophy. In 2004, I transferred to Webster University and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy in 2008. While I intended to go on to graduate school in philosophy, I encountered the necessity of using my philosophy skills for a more practical profession: studying law. In 2009, I went back to Webster University to earn my Master of Arts in Legal Studies (Paralegal degree). Upon earning my MA in Legal Studies in 2011, I worked a summer internship at the United States District Court of Eastern Missouri in the court clerk's office. My desire was to get a full-time job as a paralegal with the hope of entering law school on a part-time basis; however, the Lord had other plans for me.

In the fall of 2011, I really experienced a great desire to enter into a deeper relationship with God. After some professional and personal disappointments, I took to relying whole-heartedly on what the Lord wanted of me, and for me, in my life. It was then that thoughts of the priesthood came back to me after I first encountered them before entering college. In the three years of seriously discerning the priesthood, I decided to enter seminary in the fall of 2013. Since 2011, I have grown tremendously in my faith, hope, and love for not only God, but in the beauty of my relationship with others. Jesus Christ has truly blessed me with the great gift of family, friends, and getting to know God's people over the last few years.